

(d) Proposals are received to set up new Telephone Exchanges at Bauria, Bakshirhat, Kalyanpur, Shyampur and Udayanarayanpur in Uluberia Sub-division.

- (e)(1) The new exchange at Bauria is likely to be set up in 1997-98.
- (2) The new exchange at Bakshirhat is likely to be set up by 31.03.97.
- (3) For Kalyanpur, the plan is yet to be finalised.
- (4) At Shyampur, one C-Dot 128 port exchange has been installed already.
- (5) At Udayanarayanpur one C-DOT 256 port exchange has been installed already.

[Translation]

Container Service

931. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cities in the country where the container service has been provided;
- (b) whether the Government propose to provide this service in Jaipur; and
- (c) if so, the time by which the said services are likely to be introduced in Jaipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Container service has been provided by Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), a Public Sector Unit under Ministry of Railways in twenty three cities of the country.

(b) and (c) An Inland Container Depot (ICD) is already being operated by Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation (RAJSICO) at Sanganer in Jaipur.

[English]

Losses in SAIL

932. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the SAIL incurred huge losses in giving unsecured credit and supplying materials to certain private parties without any letter of credit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. According to SAIL, it grants unsecured credit as an accepted commercial practice based on certain parameters. Wherever there are delays, SAIL recovers the amount alongwith the applicable interest and, as such, SAIL is not incurring huge losses in such transactions.

INTERNET Current Account

933. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that foreign business travellers visiting India for a short duration find it difficult to open a temporary INTERNET current account from VSNL;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure to open INTERNET current account;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the monopoly of VSNL and its poor service is hurting the foreign investment; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir. The existing procedure for opening INTERNET account is simple.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) No, Sir. The INTERNET service is available through VSNL in 6 cities and DoT in 10 cities. The quality of INTERNET service in India compares well with international INTERNET service providers.

(f) Question does not arise in view of reply at (e) above.

Construction of Bridge at Palllady

934. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to ful-fill the long standing demand of the people to put up a bridge at Palllady near the level crossing and railway station along the existing footpath or 'Man' the level crossing in the Trivendrum-Kanniyakumari railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Level crossing is not feasible at this site and no proposal for a Road Over Bridge has been sponsored by the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Introduction of Train between New Delhi and Moradabad

935. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a suggestion from Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts

to start a separate Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Moradabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suggestion has been received to start a Shatabdi Express between New Delhi & Moradabad.

(c) Introduction of Shatabdi between New Delhi and Moradabad has not been found feasible on account of operational and resource constraints.

Gauge Conversion

936. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the conversion work of Ahmedabad-Veraval railway-line;

(b) if so, when and the amount spent so far on the project; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval section of the suggested line has already been taken up. Ahmedabad-Rajkot section is already a BG line.

(b) Conversion work of Rajkot-Veraval was included in 1994-95 budget and an amount of Rs. 3 crs. is expected to be incurred by 31.3.97.

(c) During IXth Plan.

Development of Narrow-Gauge Railway Lines

937. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the region-wise details of narrow gauge railway lines in Bihar.

(b) whether any scheme has been prepared for the development of these narrow-gauge lines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The length of narrow gauge railway line (route kilometres as on 31.3.96) in Bihar is 69 kilometres. Region-wise statistics of railway lines is not maintained.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) This line has been included, for conversion to Broad Gauge and extension to Tori, in the

Supplementary Budget 1996-97. Necessary clearances having been obtained, the work is being taken up.

Bangalore International Airport Project

938. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tata agree to build Bangalore Airport on BOT basis" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the terms and conditions and present status of the agreement;

(d) whether Tata have also agreed to induct the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as one of the equity holders in the Bangalore International Airport project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Committee has been set up on 21st February, 1997 to finalise the terms and conditions relating to the construction of a new airport of international standards at Bangalore. The Committee has representatives of Central Government, State Government of Karnataka and M/s. Tata Industries Limited.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Key Convention 1987 of ILO

939. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has ratified key convention 1987 of International Labour Organisation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the major issues which ILO has to focus on the seven key convention and India's view point thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The 74th Session of the International Labour Conference in 1987 adopted the following 4 conventions concerning seafarers :

(1) 163 - Seafarers' Welfare Convention 1987

(2) 164 - Health Protection and Medical Care (Seafarers) Convention, 1987.